

MARCH 19.

HENRY SKINNER, M.D., Sc.D., in the Chair.

Fifty persons present.

The death, on February 26, of Samuel Gibson Dixon, M.D., LL.D., Sc.D., President of the Academy, having been announced, the following minute prepared for a special meeting of the Council by John Cadwalader, LL.D., Vice President of the Academy, was read:

This Academy has met the most serious loss in the death of its President, SAMUEL GIBSON DIXON. The death of an officer who has been twenty-two years in the service of such an institution inflicts a loss not easily compensated.

When a man of Dr. Dixon's earnest character, unusual attainments and unflagging zeal in every cause which he espoused, is lost to the community, it becomes a public calamity.

It would be hard to find a man whose services had been of more value to his associates, and to the public generally, than were those of Dr. Dixon.

He was unusually well equipped for efficiency by early education. He thus came to the bar, at that time the commanding profession. The influence of an office discipline as well as Law School instruction still existed, and lawyers were truly men of affairs as well as legal advisers and could adapt themselves to all demands made upon them more readily than could men of any other training.

Having a natural trend of thought and interest in the pursuit of science, he entered the other great learned profession—medicine, after a very thorough preparation. A man in mature life who seeks a new vocation is apt to throw a deeper interest into what he undertakes, as he cannot afford to make another experiment.

Dr. Dixon's work in his profession and here in The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and for many years in his great office, presiding over the Health Department of the State, cannot be properly dealt with in a brief minute. A fitting tribute to his work and memory will be paid at a suitable time.

To-day we meet to record our deep sense of the loss of an able presiding officer, a loyal friend to the institution over which he presided, and a personal colleague whose friendship we all treasured. His colleagues tender to his family profound sympathy in their bereavement.